

THE ESSENTIAL DOG CARE GUIDE



**Keep Party Animals Healthy When Taking
Time 4 Hemp.**

"Fall in love with a dog, and in many ways you enter a new orbit, a universe that features not just new colors but new rituals, new rules, a new way of experiencing attachment." – **Caroline Knapp**



Written and compiled by **Casper Leitch**.

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How Nice It Is To Find A Good Friend!

Animal companionship is an integral aspect of Life. Approximately 90 million homes in the United States claim at least one pet as a member of the household. Humans have many reasons for owning pets. Studies conclude that animals provide “one highly reliable association in a person’s life ... more consistent and reliable than human–human.” Pets enter a “relationship of mutualism” with their owners. That is, pet owners believe they not only give but receive love and affection from their animals.

In addition to providing emotional benefits, pet ownership improves one’s physical and mental health. Studies show that pet ownership reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, helps to prevent heart disease, helps to fight depression, and therefore lowers one’s healthcare costs. One possible explanation for these health benefits lies in the fact that pet owners, particularly dog owners, are more physically active than non-pet owners. While the findings of such studies are interesting and add to the understanding of pet ownership, their focus is primarily on explaining the benefits to people of keeping pets. Many pet owners know that there is much more to the special pet–human relationship.



My first dog was a mutt. I was about 7-years old and running around the neighborhood on my bike when I spotted a puppy cornered on a neighbor's front porch by three large dogs. I jumped off my bike and ran up to the huddle of fur and put myself between the small puppy and the 3 other dogs and chased them away. I then took the puppy home and asked my mom if I could keep him. She agreed and I named him Jake. I took him with me pretty much everywhere I went. It wasn't long before Jake was reading my mind and I was reading his- so I thought.

When Jake would rest beside me at night, I felt that I could sense what he was thinking as I'd pet him. One thing is for sure, Jake could sense what I was thinking – even if we weren't in the same room together. In fact, we could be nearly a city-block apart, and Jake knew what I was thinking. One winter day after Jake had been part of my life for a couple of years, I was riding my sled down a steep icy hill and crashed my sled into a large rock and split open my head and tore up my knee. My mom was sitting in the car with Jake keeping warm while I played on my sled and she said that Jake started to go crazy in the back seat.

She said he jumped up and down and started howling and crying and spinning in circles. Just then, my mom saw a group of people helping me to the car. As soon as I got into the back seat, Jake laid down beside me and cried. He didn't calm down until a few hours after my mom had me home and my wounds wrapped.

We know dogs can sense danger when it comes to certain health conditions. Trained medical dogs can smell changes in blood sugar levels. Dogs are trained to detect high blood pressure, a potential heart attack or an impending seizure, and they can smell different types of cancer. Even untrained dogs can pick up changes in our health. That has nothing to do with a sixth sense, but it does show how sensitive a dog's sense of smell is. Scientific studies have shown that humans smell pheromones put out by other people which can give us signals about someone's mood. If we can pick up someone's pheromones, think about how much more a dog picks up.

Experts have discovered that dogs can sense nearly any disease a human may have. If your dog has been paying attention to a certain area of your body, you may want to visit your doctor for a check-up. Various studies confirm that dogs have the ability to detect certain diseases such as cancer through their keen sense of smell. Some dogs are trained to warn epilepsy sufferers when they are about to have a seizure. Some dogs are trained to let people who suffer with narcolepsy know when a 'nap attack' is about to happen – giving them chance to find a safe place to sit before they are overcome with sleep.



Dogs can even sense if a woman is pregnant. There are hundreds of stories of women who noticed changes in their dog's behavior during their pregnancy. Many owners report that their dogs suddenly become much more protective, attentive, and loving. They also report that the dogs begin escorting them everywhere they go. Dogs pick up on hormonal changes, such as when a woman is menstruating, so the ability to sniff out a pregnancy is easy for them to do.

There are many different training centers around the world that are dedicated to training dogs to detect the subtle chemical changes in the human body that signal disease. A dog's ability to sense disease comes down to an ability to detect chemicals known as volatile organic compounds or VOC's. VOC's are what allows us to sense odor and though some are toxic, the term generally applies to any chemical that can get into your nose because it is a gas. While humans can detect certain potent VOCs, our limited sense of smell is no match for what dogs can do.

Depending on the breed, a dog's sense of smell can be anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger than humans. A dog can pick scents that are 100,000 times weaker than any scent a human can detect. Dogs can detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water.

Researchers suggest that this goes as far as being able to sense changes in a person's brain, by smelling the alterations to the pheromones they are emitting. These changes happen in a person before they act cruel or aggressively.

Therefore, a dog will act different or even show aggression towards someone before a person turns aggressive. They will have sensed what is about to happen.

Dogs are also experts at reading the body language of other dogs, of cats, and of humans. They can look at our face and tell if we're in a good or bad mood. Dogs are great at picking up subtle signs we don't even know we're showing. When a dog is around someone who's nervous, excited or angry, they can smell and observe body language that cause a dog to be apprehensive towards them. People with something to hide look away when talking, and this isn't missed by dogs.

When you feel sad, your dog will immediately pick up on this and adjust its behavior accordingly. Your little buddy may become more subdued than usual, lose interest in toys and food. Many dogs will even try to lick away tears as they fall. A dog considers its owner to be the center its entire world, so sensing your feelings of sadness will have an impact on your dog.

In a study published in the journal "Animal Cognition," researchers found dogs were more likely to approach someone who was crying than someone who was humming or talking. Even though the study didn't prove that dogs experience empathy, it gave way to supporting that claim. It indicates that dogs can identify sadness as an emotion that's different from other feelings.





Grieving the death of a loved one brings a deep sadness that is unlike other types of sadness that result from the breakup of a relationship or a disappointment at work. Dogs seem to understand when we are mourning the loss of a loved one.

How much dogs can understand about death is still not fully understood. There have been many stories of pets grieving for their deceased owners, and many have kept up vigils next to their owner's grave or previous home. Some dogs have been known to howl for long sessions every day for months when in bereavement.

If you feel scared, your dog will know about it in an instant. A dog's sensitive nose can pick up on subtle scents such as adrenalin

that's associated with fear and danger. If you have a Rottweiler or Doberman, your burly protector will most likely spring into action and come to your rescue. Smaller dogs, or those with nervous temperaments, will follow your lead and start to feel scared themselves. Fear is an emotion that's shared by all animals.

Dogs, like humans, have a customary reaction to fear. Their hair stands up, their pupils dilate, their lips curl, and their stance changes. When they associate their fear posturing with human fear posturing, they gain an understanding of what humans look like when they are afraid. Combine this with their awesome sense of smell and it's no wonder that dogs can so easily detect fear. While it is true that dogs can "smell" fear, it is also true that they intuitively understand the body language associated with it.

We've all experienced a dog's almost psychic ability to sense when something unpleasant is about to take place. Even before you turn on the shower or touch his towel, your dog knows you intend to give him a bath and will immediately run for cover. The same goes for going to the vet. A dog can tell the difference between a trip planned to the vet and a trip planned to the park. A dog's sense of smell and ability to read body language are the tools used to detect the difference.

This also means that your dog understands when you intend to perform a task for its own good – like take a bathroom walk around the neighborhood. It's only a thought in your head; "I think I'll walk the dog" – and before you blink an eye or take a full breath - your little buddy is already



jumping up and down all excited about going out. Owners that have been with their dog for several years often do not have to utter a single word to show that they are annoyed. If you come home and find your dog knee-deep in the garbage can, placing your hands on your hips and issuing a disapproving stare is often enough to convey your anger.

Dogs use eye contact and gaze to figure out what people are thinking. Just as a mentalist will follow your gaze to determine what is on your mind, so too will dogs follow your gaze to get a read on what you are thinking. A 2011 study published in "Learning & Behavior" found that domestic dogs are roughly as intelligent as a 2-year-old human. That means that they can understand the meaning of roughly 165 words and that they can make sense of body language.

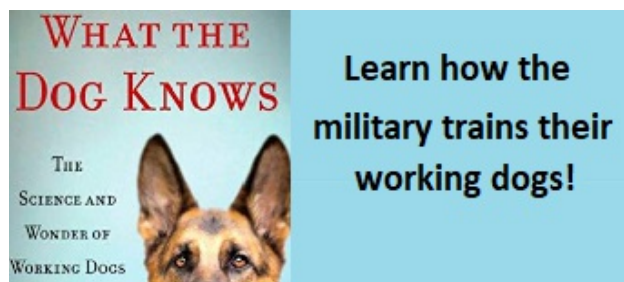
Tone of voice is another way a dog can decipher our moods and learn when we are giving them commands. Our tone communicates what we want. I have no doubt that inflections we miss in someone's tone of voice is something a dog picks up on. Because of a dog's ability to read us in different ways, it's possible they can sense something "not quite right" about someone.

When we gaze at something or someone we love, a chemical reaction takes place within our body. Dopamine and serotonin are released into our system and cause a chemical reaction that leads to feelings of happiness, joy, infatuation and ecstasy. The same thing happens when you look at a person you do not like, except the body releases a completely different set of

hormones that are associated with hate, resentment and fear. Your dog can detect these changes and will most likely begin to dislike the person that caused your reaction. If you are avoiding a person, watching that person closely, or are otherwise sending out signals that you distrust someone, don't be surprised if your dog barks, growls, or lunges at that person if they try to approach you.

We've all found ourselves in that situation where we are immediately untrustworthy of a person simply because our dog barked or reacted differently to them. After, we wonder whether we we're just being a bit too paranoid. Or could it be that the dog knew that they were a bad person?

If your normally friendly dog has reservations about someone, it may be wise to pay attention to what he's trying to tell you. Good, honest, trustworthy people have an aura of good energy around them. Science now suggests that the heart has a stronger electromagnetic field than the brain and it can send messages to the brain through neurotransmitters that influence thoughts and behavior. When we describe someone as being "goodhearted," it means that the person literally has a force field of good energy radiating from their heart. Dogs have been aware of this magnetic field for centuries and naturally gravitate toward those who emit good energy.





It's been discovered that dogs do hold grudges against people who are not kind to their humans. If your dog witnesses someone being unkind to you it will most likely remember this and hold it against them in the future. A study was undertaken where dogs would watch their owners struggle to open a tin of dog food. One researcher would then help the owner open the tin. This was then repeated with a second researcher who would watch them struggle but not help. The dog was then offered treats from these researchers. Each time the dog would not accept treats from the researchers who wouldn't help their owner.

A dog can immediately understand if a person is playing favorites. A study performed in Austria tested what would happen if one dog was rewarded for performing a trick while another was not given anything for completing the same task. The dogs that did not receive a reward became agitated at the sight of their peers receiving treats. They responded by scratching and licking themselves with

impatience. In other words, they recognized the unfairness of the situation. Treat your dog the way you would want to be treated. Human and canine justice both come down to that simple golden rule.

Many animals have a sense of justice. Chimps, for instance, have a very strong sense of right and wrong and even take pleasure in punishing those who break the rules. Dogs have their own sense of fairness and it results from their social structure. One reason that dogs understand fairness arises out of their roots as wolves. Researchers have found that, because wolves must coordinate as a pack to hunt, they depend upon rules of fairness to survive. A wolf that doesn't pull his weight won't be allowed to partake in the rewards of a hunt. A wolf that works hard to bring down an elk isn't going to respond well to being denied part of the prize.

Since our canine companions descended from wolves, they have inherited a multitude of their traits, preferences, and characteristics. It is only logical they have also inherited the pack mentality and need for social interaction. However, due to the domestication of dogs and the growing human-canine bond, that social interaction can no longer be satisfied through pure dog on dog relations. Our four-legged family members not only crave but also need human interaction, especially their owner's attention, affection, and approval, to remain mentally healthy and happy.

Somehow, dogs have evolved to like being around humans. In return for their exuberant, slobbery affection, dogs have convinced us to take care of them,



driving otherwise sane adults to carry around plastic baggies filled with warm poop. The rough idea is that tens of thousands of years ago, wolves probably began trailing human hunter-gatherers to scavenge their kills. Friendlier wolves may have been fed extra scraps, or more frightening wolves might have been killed, and over time, this group of wolves eventually evolved into dogs.

Unfortunately, many dog owners don't realize how important that social aspect is for a dog and often neglect it. Some people even get annoyed by their tail-wagging, over-excited four-legged buddies when they greet them home. After a long day at work, it is only natural to want some peace and quiet, right? Well, sometimes it is important to see things from a different perspective. Most dogs spend 8-10 hours at home, completely alone with not much mental stimulation or things to do. It can be really distressing and unhealthy for a dog to be shooed and rejected by the one person they were waiting for all day. Every dog needs regular human interaction to remain sane and happy. Make sure to dedicate enough time to your furry best friend.



THINGS THAT GO BOOM IN THE NIGHT

Fireworks are a fun and exciting way to celebrate holidays. For dogs, though, those loud booms and flashing lights aren't so fun. More pets run away on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year. New Years Eve is another holiday that shelters fill up with terrified pets.

Dogs have a more acute sense of hearing than humans, so those loud booms, crackles and whistles are alarming. You expect fireworks on holidays, but for your dog, it's just another day. Those firecrackers come without warning. The loud noises and flashing lights sound and

look different each time. They come at different intervals, so dogs can't get used to them. This triggers their fight-or-flight response. Your dog may bark at the noises, try to run away and hide or show other signs of anxiety like restlessness, panting, pacing and whining. Unfortunately, there's often nowhere to go to escape the loud booms.

There are several things you can do to help your dog feel safe and secure. Keep your little buddy inside, even if your dog spends most of the time outdoors. This will prevent dogs from running away when they feel scared. If your dog is crate-trained, make a crate available. If not, put your dog in a bathroom or other small room with music on to help drown out the noise of fireworks. Include blankets and toys to add more comfort.

You can sometimes desensitize a dog to loud noises. You can start this process by playing fireworks sounds on a low level while playing with your dog and giving out treats. Over time, slowly increase the sound of the fireworks during these play sessions. Eventually, your dog will associate the sound of fireworks with happy moments.



Cannabis And Party Animals!

The 2018 Farm Bill lifted the ban on hemp. Passing this bill did not legalize medical cannabis for pets; it only allows pets to be given CBD derived solely from industrial hemp. Vets don't have the authority to prescribe a Schedule I drug, so don't expect a quick trip to the local animal hospital to yield a doggie bag for Fido. In fact, vets in many states are barred from counseling pet owners on the potential therapeutic uses of cannabis.

California has been leading the push for legislation that would legalize "compassionate use" of cannabis for animals in the same way the state has approved medical cannabis for humans.

Right now, it's a conversation that has to be had very, very carefully between veterinarians and pet owners, so nobody gets into legal jeopardy. Because many veterinarians risk their licenses and criminal prosecution for prescribing cannabis to pets, they have to be very careful in how they talk about the plant. Our First Amendment allows a veterinarian the freedom of speech to speak directly about this if they're not giving medical advice but are dispersing educational information.



Although hemp and cannabis derive from the same family, cannabis plants can have THC levels of 30% or higher, whereas hemp contains no more than 0.3% THC. Federal law aside, the THC levels in cannabis products (whether in plant, pill, edible, or tincture form) are toxic to pets. Products made with CBD derived from hemp can benefit your pet without intoxication.

CBD oil can help to relieve some symptoms of arthritis; reduce pain in many parts of the body; treat drug-resistant seizures and epilepsy; reduce anxiety; strengthen the immune system's fight against cancer cells; and reduce inflammation without side effects in cats and dogs.

Many CBD products for pets are widely available and legally sold online and in stores, yet many veterinarians are reluctant to discuss cannabis therapy with clients.

Even if medical cannabis is legal in their state for human consumption, current laws do not contain provisions for ailing animals. If you try to solicit information and medical advice about cannabis for your dog's seizures or cat's tumor, your vet will have to decide between the risk of losing their license or honestly sharing what cannabis could do for your pet's health.

Currently, California is the only state to pass legislation that specifically authorizes veterinarians to discuss medical cannabis options for pets with their clients.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act require drugs to be tested by the Food and Drug Administration before entering the U.S. market. CBD is considered a new drug, meaning medical claims for CBD products must be verified if intended for human's.

Manufacturers side-step this hurdle by simply categorizing their products as pet supplements, which (unlike drugs) are not subject to any stringent regulations. The National Animal Supplement Council has attempted to address this gap for pet supplements with the Food and Drug Administration and to create a quality-seal audit program that is like the requirements under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, which regulates supplements intended for human use.

This means that the legal status, medicinal value, and CBD content of cannabis products intended for pet use is uncertain and unverified. Unless agencies and states make it clear that cannabis regulations and standards also apply to nonhuman animal use, risks of illicit and harmful products for pets may slip through the cracks.



THC is known to be toxic to dogs. According to the Merck Veterinary Manual, common signs of marijuana toxicosis that owners may notice include inactivity; incoordination; dilated pupils; increased sensitivity to motion, sound or touch; hypersalivation; and urinary incontinence. A veterinary exam can reveal depression of the central nervous system and an abnormally slow heart rate. Less common signs include restlessness, aggression, slow breathing, low blood pressure, an abnormally fast heart rate, and rapid, involuntary eye movements. In rare cases, animals can have seizures or become comatose.

Hemp differs from marijuana in that it has a significantly lower THC content with predominantly more CBD. This lessens the chances that a pet will experience the negative side effects of THC, as CBD doesn't exert the same psychoactive potential. However, there are no regulations on the chemical makeup of hemp products and therefore no way of really knowing, apart from relying on manufacturers' labels for batch-to-batch variability in THC content. Additionally, very little is known regarding the long-term health effects of chronic exposure to these products, or about their use in conjunction with other medications.

Many CBD oils have claims of even higher purity than hemp. Similarly, though, these products are not regulated and therefore may still exhibit variability in chemical makeup. Additionally, many of the claims about cannabinoids' effectiveness are anecdotal and have not yet been scientifically proven.

As for SMOKED marijuana itself, there isn't a good reason to give your pet a "high" regardless of whether the product is legal for human medical or recreational purposes. There are many prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs that are safe for humans but are not safe for pets. For example, alcohol is toxic to pets. Some owners may think it's funny to let their pets drink beer or liquor, yet it can be very dangerous for the animal.

With more states legalizing medical and recreational cannabis, pets are becoming increasingly exposed to the risk of eating smokable marijuana or edible cannabis products. Cannabis is more toxic to dogs than to humans; though few pet deaths have been reported, the threat is real.

According to the FDA, you should contact a vet if you suspect your pet has been exposed to cannabis and exhibits symptoms of: Lethargy, Depression, Heavy Drooling, Vomiting, Agitation, or Tremors.

As for hemp and CBD oils being of benefit to animals, I am skeptical at best. It is difficult to watch pets suffer through anxiety or pain from ailments such as cancer. Many of these products are promoted for their therapeutic potential, none have an FDA approval. Anecdotal findings and limited case studies in humans does not constitute the amount of research needed to establish these products as "safe" for pets.

THE FIRST AID COMPANION FOR DOGS & CATS

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I had a dog that suffered from tumor growth and one of my friends gave me some hemp oil to give her with her food. I added a drop the size of a piece of rice to her meal. An hour later she was groggy and not able to stand. When I moved towards her, she would act as if she was startled by my movements. By sunlight the next morning she was all limp and disoriented. I called a buddy to come pick us up and take us to the vet to have her put-down. Shortly before he arrived, I tried to walk her and as I did, she began to snap out of it. A few hours later she was back to herself – still suffering with her tumors and narrowly being put down long before her time due to her reaction to ONE RICE SIZE DROP of cannabis oil. It was a horrible experience for the dog and a scary experience for me.

It's important to understand the difference between marijuana and hemp because each contain varying amounts of chemical compounds that affect your dog differently. Marijuana and hemp are both parts of the same Cannabis Sativa plant. Marijuana refers to the plant's buds, leaves, and resin.

The rest of the plant is considered hemp, though that term is not recognized under federal law.

Hemp contains less than 0.3% THC but has high amounts of cannabidiol (CBD), which is non-psychoactive and non-toxic. Marijuana contains cannabidiol (CBD) and other chemical compounds but is known for its high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the substance that causes a psychoactive effect or "high" in humans and dogs. While small amounts of THC may be helpful for some dogs, too much can be toxic.

Much like humans, dogs have what are called cannabinoid receptors in their bodies. These receptors reside in what scientists call the endocannabinoid system. Otherwise known as the EC system, it works to balance several of the dog's bodily functions, including appetite, sleep, mood, immune system response, memory, metabolism, movement and coordination.

As a naturally occurring cannabinoid, CBD is molecularly comparable to your dog's endocannabinoids. When CBD enters your dog's bloodstream, it binds with cannabinoid receptors to help stimulate and support the EC system in bringing homeostasis (balance) back to any of the aforementioned functions if and when they're out of balance.

Cannabis can have antioxidant, anti-cancer, anti-convulsant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic (pain-relieving), sedative, and other positive effects. It's been used, legally or illegally, for animals suffering from a variety of ailments since the late 1800s, he says. These include inflammatory bowel disease, behavior problems, glaucoma,



arthritis and other types of inflammation-related pain, cancer, digestive tract upset, skin disorders, intervertebral disc disease, kidney and liver diseases, separation anxiety, and chronic pain management.

While experts caution that CBD oil for pets and related products are not a cure-all, it has demonstrated health benefits for pets and doesn't have the same side effects as many prescription drugs.

Although the dosage proportions aren't the same, cannabis can be used to treat the same conditions in pets that it's used to treat in humans. Cannabis has proven highly effective in treating ailments (including conditions such as anxiety, stress, arthritis, seizures, and even cancer symptoms) in dogs and cats.

A growing number of companies selling CBD oils for pets have their testing policies, a list of specific ingredients found in products, and consumer stories available on their websites. Many of these are advertised as hemp oil; some are also mixed with a dog-safe ingredient like coconut oil. When buying CBD oil or other CBD products for your pet, look for products that have been third-party tested as the best CBD extracts undergo lab testing for potency or strength.

Another sign of quality is "full spectrum" CBD. Full spectrum CBD oil for pets is an extract that contains all compounds found naturally occurring in the cannabis plant, including terpenes, essential oils, and other cannabinoids. Organically sourced CBD is another great quality indicator since it is grown without pesticides.

As with any supplement or medicine, how much of the substance you take is just as important as the substance itself. The general recommendation is that people should not be giving any medicine or supplements to their pets without some sort of medical guidance.

The amount of CBD that will help your dog will vary. It won't necessarily take high doses of CBD oil for dogs to feel better, so start slowly. When it comes to dosage, your pet's size, age, and other medical conditions all play a role. It's a little tricky, so you should first speak with a veterinarian.

Studies are underway at several universities that will hopefully illuminate the effects of CBD in pets and help vets safely determine dosage. Until research results are in, true efficacy and safety of these products remain unproven. Still, many experts are confident cannabis and CBD oil for pets can be effective when used appropriately.

Previous surveys and studies of cannabis use in pets have shown that owners have also tried using cannabis-based treatments to manage separation anxiety, noise phobia, irritable bowel syndrome, lack of appetite in their animals. Dog owners reported that hemp products were most effective in treating pain and helping their pet sleep, according to a report published last year in the Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.



**Read About
The Dog
Heroes of
09/11**



CBD hemp can help with both chronic and acute disease. Among chronic conditions, it can help with arthritis, compromised immune systems, stress responses, aggression and digestive issues. There are also studies under way into CBD's effects on Type 1 diabetes, organ diseases and cancer.

Veterinarians are also finding CBD hemp can be useful in treating acute ailments like sprains and strains, torn ligaments, bone breaks and even during post-operative care to reduce swelling, pain and stiffness. If your pet is taking conventional drugs for any of these conditions, CBD hemp may make it possible to use lower doses of the drugs to achieve therapeutic effects.

As with any herbal medicine, for most ailments you may not see an immediate effect. You'll need to be patient. Your pet may feel some pain-relief in a few hours but other symptoms, like inflammation, may take a few days to show improvement.

Dogs and cats, like many animals, have an endocannabinoid system that interacts with the compounds in cannabis to produce

biological effects. Research is lacking, but not nonexistent. In a study by Cornell University published last year in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, dogs with osteoarthritis who took CBD oil "showed a significant decrease in pain and increase in activity," with no observed negative side effects. The most common side effects cited were sedation and an overactive appetite.

Since conventional medicines often do have negative side effects, this is a useful benefit of CBD. The most common side effect of CBD is that your pet may get a little drowsy. On rare occasions, side effects have included excessive itchiness or mild vomiting, but these sensitivities are few and far between. If your dog reacts with these symptoms, you should stop giving him cannabis.

When using CBD oil, it's best to start with 1 drop of CBD oil per 10-lbs of your pet's body weight per day. Give this dose for about a week, then move up to 1 drop per 10-lbs of body weight twice per day. If using CBD in capsules, start with a quarter of the recommended dose and increase gradually until you see the benefits.

If there are no side effects, increase the dose every 4 to 5 days until you see the therapeutic benefits. Side effects may include disorientation, hyperactivity, vomiting or excessive sedation. If you note any of these effects, stop treatment until they go away, then restart at a lower dose.

There are plenty of edibles for pets these days (such as biscuits and soft flavored chews) that provide easy ways to medicate pets. But the most commonly suggested format is that of a tincture, which is usually



oil-based and has a very set amount of the cannabinoids in it. Tincture is an extract (typically sold in a small bottle that comes with a dropper) and is recommended for use by the drop or milliliter. Cannabinoids are best absorbed through a pet's oral mucus membrane. Silver added, so medicating is as simple as spreading the tincture on your pet's tongue.

Be sure to observe your pet's response. The key is to find a dose where you don't see side effects but do see results. With continued use, you may need to increase the dose a little over time to achieve the therapeutic results. If you prefer to buy the CBD treats offered by some companies, start with a quarter cookie and work up gradually from there. Don't exceed the manufacturer's maximum recommended dose for your pet's size.

Depending on your location, cannabis products can be hard to come by. Luckily, hemp-based treatments are available in all 50 states and can provide some of the same relief. Hemp products are high in CBD, a cannabis compound that has lauded medical uses but doesn't cause the psychoactive high that comes with THC.

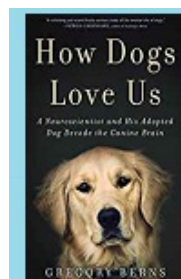
Research has found that, of all species, dogs have the highest density of THC receptors in their hind brain. That makes them extremely sensitive to its effects. Because THC exists at such low levels in hemp products, it means a lower risk of overconsumption. Using hemp-based cannabinoids, which are very low in THC, can cover almost all the bases. While hemp-based products can be effective and are more widely available, it's best to use

cannabis products whenever possible in order to take advantage of the plant's entourage effect (the synergistic results created by the hundreds of active compounds in cannabis working together).

Many veterinarians are concerned about the lack of research on THC and animals. With treats, pills, sublingual tinctures, and lotions available, the pet market is a fast-growing segment of the booming CBD industry. The American Veterinary Medical Association says on its website that CBD appears to hold "therapeutic promise" in treating epilepsy and pain but cautions that more research on animals is needed. The Food and Drug Administration has not approved marijuana for in animals and cautions pet-owners against using them.

Small amounts of THC can also be toxic to dogs because they have many cannabinoid receptors, making them particularly sensitive, and they weigh less than humans. Last year, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' poison control hot line received over 1,800 calls about marijuana toxicity, up 765 percent over 10 years. The ASPCA attributed the rise to reduced stigma about marijuana use.

Like most drugs, the effects of cannabis are based on chemistry. The drug enters the body via inhalation or ingestion and binds with specific neuroreceptors in the brain, altering normal neurotransmitter function.



**How Dogs Love Us
is MUST reading
for every pet owner.**



THC interacts with neurotransmitters such as norepinephrine, dopamine, serotonin, and acetylcholine. Humans and pets have two types of receptors in their bodies. One type, CB1, affects the central nervous system, and the other, CB2, affects the peripheral tissues. Although not all the pharmacologic mechanisms triggered by cannabinoids have been identified, it is thought that CB1 is responsible for most of the effects of cannabis.

Everything that enters the body must exit the body. THC is very lipid-soluble, which means that it is easily stored in the fatty tissue in the liver, brain, and kidneys before being eliminated from the body. THC is metabolized in the liver and the majority is excreted in the feces, while a small percentage is eliminated through the kidneys. The drug has to be metabolized and excreted for the effects to wear off.

Cannabis is considered to have a high margin of safety for people; however,

not all people, and certainly not all pets follow a single pattern of intoxication. A small amount may affect one pet more than another, so there is no official safe level of exposure. Differences in age, health status, and body size are some of the factors that can lead to toxicity differences.

Many deaths of pets have been noted after ingestion of foods containing highly concentrated cannabis such as medical-grade THC. Luckily, cannabis intoxication is seldom fatal. The average marijuana cigarette contains about 150 mg of THC. The minimum lethal oral dose of THC in pets is fairly high; however, deaths have been noted after ingestion of foods containing highly concentrated cannabis, such as medical-grade THC. In fact, fatalities were very rare until the development of medical-grade products.

Many of the signs of intoxication are neurological. Pets may become wobbly and uncoordinated. They may be hyperactive, disoriented, and very vocal. Their pupils may dilate, giving them a wild-eyed appearance, and they may drool excessively or vomit. They may also develop urinary incontinence. In severe cases, tremors, seizures, and coma can result. These side effects are usually short-lived, but they can still be dangerous.

Physical signs include low or elevated heart rate and blood pressure and slowed respiration rate. Lethargy, and increases or decreases in body temperature may also be observed. Fortunately, these side effects are also usually short-lived, but they can be dangerous and make the pet miserable.



Diagnosis is based on an accurate history and clinical signs. Although there are tests to determine the level of THC in the urine, the results take time, making them impractical. Human urine drug-screening tests are quicker but are not dependable in pets. The diagnosis is made much more quickly, and treatment initiated, when responsible pet owners provide accurate information regarding the pet's exposure.

When a toxin enters the body, often the first line of defense is to get it out. If the toxicity is discovered shortly after ingestion, your veterinarian may induce vomiting to prevent further absorption of the toxin. Two factors may interfere with this early defensive strategy. First, the signs of toxicity may manifest only after the drug has been absorbed, meaning it is already in the system. Second, cannabis has an anti-emetic effect which inhibits vomiting. In life-threatening cases, the stomach may be pumped (gastric lavage). Activated charcoal may be administered every 6-8 hours to neutralize the toxin. Enemas are also used to reduce toxin absorption from the GI tract.

The second line of defense in cannabis toxicity is providing supportive care until the effects wear off. Medications to regulate the pet's heart rate, respiration, and body temperature are used if needed. Since the pet may be lethargic, with no desire to eat or drink, IV fluids can help prevent dehydration, support blood pressure, and maintain organ function. Anti-anxiety medications can minimize agitation. To prevent self-trauma while the pet is disoriented and uncoordinated, confinement in a safe space is helpful. Keep noise to a minimum.

Cannabis use and pets is similar to that with other drugs in the home – you need to be careful. Keep all forms of cannabis, medical or recreational, out of reach of your pet. Consider storage in high cabinets or in locked drawers when not in use. Keep pets in a separate and well-ventilated room, away from second-hand smoke.

Remember that pets have a good sense of smell and will be tempted to eat candies, chips, chocolates, and cannabis directly if accessible. If you notice suspicious behavior in your cat or dog and cannabis exposure is a possibility, take your pet to your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital for treatment.

Our dogs deserve all the love and affection we can give them, which is why there's a special day dedicated just to hugging them. It's April 10: National Hug Your Dog Day.

Hugging your dog releases a hormone in both pup and person called "oxytocin," informally referred to as "the cuddle hormone." Not only does a good tight squeeze strengthen your bond, it shows your pet that you care. So grab your dog and give them an extra cuddle today!

Always know where your pet is



with LIVE GPS tracking!



When The Party's Over!

A Dog's Last Will and Testament

Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, and give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask.

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give: My happy home, my bowl, cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys. The lap which I loved so much. The hand that stroked my fur and the sweet voice which spoke my name.

I'd bequeath to the lost and lonely and scared shelter dog the place I had in my human's heart, of which there seemed no bounds. So when I die please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand." Instead go find an unloved dog; one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to him.

This is the only thing I can give...the **LOVE** I've left behind.

Forever yours.

"Ever consider what our dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul, chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!" – **Anne Tyler**

"The gift which I am sending you is called a dog, and is in fact the most precious and valuable possession of mankind" – **Theodorus Gaza**

"Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way." – **Caroline Knapp**

"Happiness is a warm puppy." – **Charles Schulz**



**THANK
YOU**

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